INVISIBLE GOVERNMENT —

PART VII

CIA Snoops Irked Canada

(Editor's note: In the conclusion of The Invisible Government, John Meier vows to continue his fight while the Canadian police investigate the Howard Hughes-CIA involvement of the Canadian government.)

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Even though he is quietly living the life of an exile in Canada there must have been times when the Canadian government wished John Meier had picked Mexico instead.

Since the ex-Hughes aide arrived and made his home there the Canadians have been caught up in the hurly-burly of Meier's epic struggle with the CIA, the U.S. government and the Hughes organization.

While the government in Canada could take a polite view of the fight not wishing to root for either side, as soon as it became clear that the CIA had been using the country at whim an investigation was ordered.

This was after the Virgino Gonzales affidavit became public and allegedly showed the CIA to have been in and out of Canada after Meier, had used Canadian officials to interfere with his application for immigrant status and had pressured politicians to keep away from helping Meier.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police intelligence officers were assigned to check out the affidavit to see if it was a hoax or real and to find out just how deeply the CIA had infiltrated the country.

Official government policy states that the CIA is allowed to conduct investigations within Canada as long as the RCMP is informed and approves what's being planned. Obviously no one consented to what was done to Meier.

As international protocol bars the RCMP from pursuing their investigations into the U.S. where the answers to Gonzales' affidavit are to be found, the investigators are having a difficult time putting together the evidence th[illegible]d.

But these officers have publicly stated that they consider Gonzales to be real and his affidavit genuine until proven different.

In the course of these investigations they met privately with SUN publisher Hank Greenspun who supplied them with information on Intertel — Hughes' private security force.

Greenspun made a lightning visit to Vancouver in early August and met with the RCMP in the Bayshore Inn — ironically the same place Howard Hughes is supposed to have stayed on his visit to Vancouver three years ago.

The RCMP would obviously like to meet with Gonzales and get more information out of him concerning his alleged forays into Canada. So too would the CIA.

But Gonzales vanished after signing his affidavit in Mexico and is believed to have gone to Europe. He is supposed to have visited Spain, England and Germany.

There is no doubt that if Gonzales could be run to ground and brought to testify, Meier's case would be drastically altered.

As it is, Meier has been left with an affidavit which a court need not accept as proof while cynics can dismiss the document as being too convenient and too good to be true.

However, the strongest argument against the document being a farce is the affidavit itself. It is so well detailed

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that any of the facts can be easily checked.

So far, after three months of being probed by intelligence officers both in Canada and the U.S. along with a score of journalists, no one has yet come up with anything in the affidavit which doesn't stand up.

As to existence of the author, there is little doubt he is real. Gonzales made the headlines this January when a Canadian film maker, Bruce McInnes, reported Gonzales had asked him to spy on John Meier.

McInnes, who says he is working on a documentary of Howard Hughes' life, has known Meier for some years.

After signing his affidavit, Gonzales engaged New York lawyer, Ruben Mack.

Mack has also stated he has met Gonzales and dismisses any claim that his client doesn't exist by saying he couldn't represent a "non-existent person."

The lawyer said he has met his client face-to-face but refuses to say anymore about him.

For Meier and his family their hopes lie in the future. For them the present is a nightmare, the past a disaster.

Asked why he doesn't stop fighting and just resign himself to living in exile, Meier says he is innocent.

"My family has been hurt drastically by the whole situation, so I'm going to clear my name.

"I'm adamant that the true story surrounding Howard Hughes' organization will be brought out and for these two reasons I'm going to beat this case.

"They can take on Bob Maheu who can only tell half the story but the mistake they made with John Meier is the fact that because of what they did to my family I'm not interested in working a deal with any government agency that's going to stop me telling the whole story.

"They can discredit me all they want but they are not going to be able to deny the facts — it's that simple."